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# Yachi's delivery mission (re-upload)

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The main door of the second gymnasium was left open to allow the wind to blow in. Up till just now, the evening sun radiated its heat relentlessly, but as soon as the sun set, the sounds of insects could be heard and the weather became much more comfortable. However, to the members who were screaming at the top of their lungs in the gymnasium, they probably could not feel the slight change in the temperature.

“The last 30 balls!”

“Yes!!”

As soon as the members squeezed out a reply, the sounds of balls bouncing, along with the screeching of the shoes against the drips of sweat on the floor resonated throughout.

The members of the Karasuno Men's Volleyball Club have just passed the preliminaries for the Spring High Tournament.

After the prelims and despite the hot temperature in summer, the members continued to run and jump in the gymnasium. In autumn the representative match for the Miyagi prefecture would begin, and to the members, despite now being summer, there was simply no time for leisure.

Once the whistle signaling the end of practice sounded, the team's manager Yachi ran into the gymnasium, her hands full of sports drinks.

“Everyone has worked hard!!”

Yachi shouted with energy as she walked in. The third year manager Shimizu followed behind her, her hands carrying cold towels.

“Oh, Yachi, I need some here!”

“So cooling! I'm alive again!”

The sweaty members crowded around the two managers, then collapsed on

the floor one by one, as if they had no energy left. Although everyone looked as if they were going to melt into the floor, they did not forget to thank the team managers.

“Both the towel and the drink were so cooling and so refreshing, thanks!”  
“Yachi-san, you’re quite sensible.”

Hearing what the members said, Yachi shook her head, saying “it’s nothing!” repeatedly.

“That, because Shimizu senpai said cold is better, so I prepared them right away!”

“Oh oh oh oh oh! As expected of our Kiyoko-san!”

Tanaka and Nishinoya, who were initially lying on the floor, stood up suddenly after regaining energy. Sawamura, who was beside them, said as he wiped off his sweat:

“It’s indeed hot... let’s get ice pop before heading home.”

“Oh, that’s not a bad idea. Are you going to treat us, Daichi-san?”

Sugawara had just passed his remark casually, but the others were of course not going to let this golden opportunity slip by. Everyone stood up suddenly, and, with energy, spoke in unison:

“Thank you Daichi senpai!!”

“Hey... Suga, it’s all thanks to you...!”

“Thanks for the treat!”

Sugawara placed his palms together and said jokingly. Seeing how Sawamura was glaring at Sugawara, Yachi smiled.

—

After changing their clothes, the members of the volleyball club shouted “Senpai’s treat! We’re gonna eat ice!” excitedly as they walked out of the club room. Yachi looked at them as she asked:

“Eh? Where’s Hinata?”

Yamaguchi, who was the last to get down the stairs answered:

“He said he’s going for self-practice, so he left early—right, he’s going to the

old coach Ukai's house."

Yachi looked at Yamaguchi with a surprised look, then pointed at the gymnasium with a worried look.

"He left his towel and other belongings inside. I was about to remind him not to forget his stuff..."

The towel and knee pads were left at a corner in the gymnasium. They belonged to Hinata.

"So he forgot to bring them back... If we leave them as it is, they'll just rot in a corner..."

Yachi, with a face of calmness, walked into the gymnasium. She picked up the towel and knee pads, then, with a nod, she said to herself: "Alright!"

"I'll bring these to Hinata, help me let the others know!"

Yachi changed into her sport shoes as soon as she finished saying, then waved at the slightly taken aback Yamaguchi. Then, she looked around the area, and gave chase when she saw coach Ukai heading towards the car park.

"Coach, sorry! Can you tell me where's the old coach Ukai's house?"

Coach Ukai spotted Yachi, who was waving as she ran towards him. He stopped in front of his car.

"Ah? Oh oh, sure. Do you have anything to do there, though? There's nothing fun there?"

"This! Because Hinata forgot his stuff."

Coach Ukai saw the towel and knee pads on Yachi's hands, and showed a face of understanding. He took out a piece of crumpled receipt and a pen from his pocket, then drew a map on it.

"Hmm, you should be able to read this map... Or else I can bring it there for you, I'm driving anyway."

"No! It's okay! This is also the job of the team's manager!"

Yachi bowed towards him respectfully. Coach Ukai, on the other hand, was slightly taken aback by her aura, and could only utter "I-is that so? Be careful

then.” He looked on as Yachi ran away, her bag swaying left to right as she ran. He then took out a cigarette and lit it. A small flame lit up amidst the dark car park.

“... She could just give it to him tomorrow.”

—

“Alright, here I go!”

Yachi stuffed all of Hinata’s belongings in a paper bag she found in the club room. As she was about to look at the map coach Ukai gave to her while standing at the school’s main gate, a small van stopped beside her. Yachi’s uniform skirt fluttered.

“Ah, Coach.”

Her eyes met coach Ukai’s , who was at the steering wheel with a cigarette hanging from his mouth, but he only slightly raised his hand, then drove off after confirming that there were no oncoming cars from both sides. Yachi nodded slightly, then stared at coach Ukai, her mind thinking how he had to turn the steering wheel so many times just to turn the car. The car drove past Yachi with a slight sound of the engine, then headed downhill.

The car disappeared, leaving a trail of smoke behind. Yachi bowed once again in the direction of the car, then returned back to the map.

In a while, her expression changed.

“...Eh? This map, now where’s the school facing?”

The map drawn on the back of the receipt had no indication of her current location. Although the map lacked any details, one should be able to make sense of it if they took a closer look, right? Eh? Did I hold it the opposite way? Hmm, or should I hold it against a light source? Yachi turned the map around and around, and even held it against a the street light, but she just could not make sense of the map.

“Do I have to... burn it with fire? I don’t think I need to, right?”

To put into context what were the only things she could make out of the map, there was only a “road” depicted by two badly drawn lines, and on the two sides

of the “road”, one of them is the “school”, the other being the “old coach’s house”. on the line depicting the “road”, there were a few annotations such as “this should be a mailbox”, “gentle slope” and “red jeep”.

“Red, jeep...”

Yachi mumbled to herself.

“Coach, a car... you can’t use movable things as markings...”

Yachi went into a daze for awhile, then regained her confidence as she walked onto the road. She thought that as long as she made it to Sakanoshita, she would be able to ask around for directions. She grabbed onto the paper bag with Hinata’s belongings tightly, then rushed to Sakanoshita. Although it’s not too late yet, if she didn’t hurry up, she might not make it to dinner time at home.

Although Yachi was slightly surprised at the coach’s map, she couldn’t hide her excitement. To look for an unfamiliar house is like going on an adventure, and besides, she really wanted to know what kind of a person is the old coach. Since so many children go to him, he must be quite a good guy. This feels interesting. And most importantly, she looked forward to seeing Hinata’s surprised look.

On an evening in summer, accompanied by the sound of her pencil case rattling in her bag, Yachi ran down the gentle slope.

—

“Eh?”

Yachi let out a slight sound as she saw the lights coming from Sakanoshita. That’s because she saw Kageyama standing in front of the vending machines at the shop’s front. She didn’t see the other members, could they be inside?

“Hi, Kageyama-kun, where’s everyone else?”

Kageyama looked up with a bread in his mouth and saw Yachi, who was panting as she ran towards him. After taking a few bites of his bread, he lowered his head and looked at Yachi, who was arranging her messy fringe from running. Kageyama spoke:

“Garigari-kun is sold out, so they all went to Shimada mart.”

“Huh? Ah, Nishinoya senpai really liked Garigari-kun ice pop... Right, then why



are you here?”

“Because I’m hungry.”

Kageyama took a bite of his bread again after speaking. Yachi looked on at him in surprise.

“Don’t be such a lone wolf, why don’t you join the others?”

“Huh? I only wanted a bread.”

Kageyama had a face of disbelief, his mouth stuffed with bread.

“Hmm, why is that so... why is that so? For what reason? Because senpai is treating... Ah, no. you could help the senpais carry their bags... Ah, it’s not this way as well... Hmm...” Yachi mumbled as she looked at Kageyama, then returned to her senses and asked:

“That’s not what I wanted to talk about, Kageyama-kun, do you know where’s the old coach Ukai’s house where Hinata is practicing on his own?”

“Yeah, I’ve been there before.”

Yachi had a face full of hope.

“I’m so lucky! Yes! I have something to bring over, but I do not know the way. I had wanted to ask the shop owner, but, could you lead the way?”

“... That’s fine with me.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Kageyama threw the bread packaging into the dustbin, then picked up his sports bag from the floor.

—

Kageyama, who is slightly above 180cm, along with Yachi, who is about 150cm, walked down the slope awkwardly. Kageyama walked in his own quick pace while Yachi trailed behind him. She spoke:

“If he’s going to draw a map, he should have written down the current location and the destination clearly! Why he chose to use a red jeep as a marking is beyond my comprehension...”

“Hmm? Is that so? Red is a striking colour.”

Kageyama continued walked in front as he answered nonchalantly. Yachi,

slightly taken aback, stopped in her footsteps.

“B-Because... a car can move! It won’t stay at the same place!”

“Huh? Oh oh, that’s right.”

“You and coach Ukai are indeed of the same kind...”

Yachi looked on at Kageyama’s back in surprise. Kageyama turned around suddenly, scaring her. Yachi took a few steps backwards instinctively. Kageyama asked:

“What are you bringing over?”

Yachi replied with a “Oh, right”, then showed Kageyama the paper bag.

“Hinata forgot to take along with him his belongings.”

Kageyama’s frowned as soon as she finished speaking.

“Why do I have to do this for that guy’s idiocy...”

Seeing Kageyama’s frown, Yachi immediately thought “I’m going to get killed!”. She then looked down in fear: “S-Sorry! I’m not as smart as Shimizu senpai, but I just wanted to help everyone! However, I caused trouble for you, Kageyama-kun. The more I do, the more I things I mess up... My life has been a series of traps, and I could only struggle... Urgh! I’m an idiot! I’m a cricket!”

“... Cricket?”

Kageyama stared at Yachi, who was moving about. Then, he said calmly:

“If that’s the job of the team’s manager, I guess there’s nothing we can do.”

“Eh?”

Yachi looked up, only to see Kageyama start walking again.

“I’m getting hungry, let’s hurry up.”

“... Huh? Didn’t you just had a bread?”

The blurry street lights shone on the two, their shadows on the road. Yachi’s adventure has officially started.

—

Yachi followed Kageyama for quite a while before she finally realised the panic

look on Kageyama's face, as he kept looking around the area. Could it be that he can't remember the way? Although slightly worried, Yachi lacked the courage to ask Kageyama if he knew the way. If Kageyama replied with a "sorry", she wouldn't know what to do.

Yachi looked on the streets with suspicion. No matter how you see it, they were indeed lost. Her palms started to sweat, her adventurous mood long disappeared. Owing to her anxiety, she even recalled how her family warned her when she was young that if she went to an unfamiliar place, she might be kidnapped by bad people.

Eh? What if it's no kidnapper, but a spirit? An alien? Supernatural... Occurrences?

No no no, of course I don't believe in spirits or aliens. I may be small in size, but I'm no longer a child who would be scared by fictitious stuff like these. Besides, I'm not alone now, Kageyama-kun is here as well.

Despite Yachi trying to convince herself, as soon as she saw any unidentified shadows in the fields, she would still be scared stiff.

"C-Could it be an alien...?!"

Once she started imagining things, she no longer had the energy left to look at Kageyama, who was tilting his head while looking at the map.

She decided to ask Kageyama, all the while pretending to be indifferent.

"Uh, um... Kageyama-kun, this road, how should I put it? Uh, the mailbox the coach mentioned, hasn't, um, appeared yet, right?"

"... Huh?"

Kageyama turned around, his forehead full of sweat, his face completely at a loss, his eyes losing concentration. Oh no, I guessed right! Yachi moved her hands around immediately, her head shaking.

"No! that is, no! I'm not suspecting you! That, so...!"

"Ah."

Right then, Kageyama's eyes lit up suddenly, as if he'd seen a glimmer of hope.

“Eh? Could it be you remembered the direction?”

Yachi asked in a higher pitch. Kageyama pointed at a car along the road gleefully, then started chasing after it.

“I saw it, the red jeep!”

“Eh? W-Wait... what are you saying?! Wait for me, Kageyama-kun, you’re running too fast! Don’t leave me at a place like this!!”

But Yachi’s voice only echoed in the surrounding while Kageyama continued chasing after the car.

“If I caught up with the jeep, I would be able to find the correct direction! If it drove away, we would be lost again!”

Ah, he really got lost! Yachi thought to herself while chasing after Kageyama.

“Wait a minute, Kageyama-kun! The jeep might be heading elsewhere instead of heading home! Besides, we don’t know if that’s the same jeep!”

Yachi chased after Kageyama with all her might, but tripped and fell on the road.

“S-So painful... No way, I’ll be left behind...!”

Yachi got up from the ground, her face looking lost. Suddenly, an ordinary looking white van stopped beside her. It was not a van familiar to her. Yachi was so scared her body stiffened as a guy got off from the van.

“Eh? W-Who are you...?”

Yachi looked all flustered, her mind remembering something from the past—

“Kidnappers would not choose an eye-catching car model. They’ll usually pick the ordinary kind—those you see around everywhere.”

“...K-kidnapper!”

“What did you say?”

Hearing Yachi’s voice, Kageyama ran back towards her. Before he returned, a guy stood in front of the trembling Yachi, blocking the street light.

“M-Mummy...”

Yachi grew teary-eyed, she was unable to see the guy's features since he was standing against the light. The guy held out his hand:

"Hey, what are you two doing here? You're students from Karasuno High, right?"

"Eh?"

The words on the van read "Takinoue Electronics"—the guy who got down from the van was the volleyball club's alumni, Takinoue.

"T-Takinoue senpai...?!"

Seeing Yachi's about-to-cry expression as she let out a sigh of relief, Takinoue was caught in shock.

"W-Why are you crying? Kageyama, what have you done!"

Kageyama who just ran back also had a face of shock.

"Huh? I was only chasing after the red jeep..."

"Jeep?"

Upon hearing Kageyama's words, Takinoue frowned. Yachi explained:

"We're looking for the ex-coach's house..."

"Ah, the old Coach Ukai's house... you guys are in the complete opposite direction! Where did you guys head out from?"

"S-School..."

Seeing the tired looking Yachi, Takinoue showed a face of disbelief.

"You guys walked past a hill? What are you guys doing..."

"Eh?"

A moth stopped on the street light, then, with a flutter of its wings, disappeared into the night sky.

—

"Ah, you shouldn't have asked that guy."

Takinoue spoke as he held onto the steering wheel. The van drove in the midst

of fields alongside the road, completely different from the residential area Yachi and Kageyama walked to just now.

Yachi, who was sitting beside him, spoke softly:

“I-is that so?”

“Ukai... is used to visiting his grandpa’s house, so he can’t remember any road signs or markings. He goes there based purely on instinct.”

“Ah, that’s similar to how Nishinoya senpai and Kageyama-kun would only describe how to do a certain move with “pah!”, “fwah!” and “gwah!”!”

“You guys are a pitiful lot, getting taught by these guys.”

Takinoue took a turn into a pebble-filled road. Yachi’s ponytail on the side swaying left and right.

“... Look, it’s right in front.”

Hearing Takinoue, Yachi looked in front. A two-storey house stood in front of where the headlights were shining. It was spacious looking and had fences around.

“So here it is...”

Yachi looked out from the window. Kageyama, who had kept silent at the back seat throughout finally talked.

“Ah, I know this place.”

“Kageyama-kun, you didn’t know at all before we arrived...”

Yachi flashed a tired smile as the van came to a stop.

—

“E-excuse me... Hmm?”

A ball rolled towards Yachi as she crossed the front gate. She picked up the ball, tilting her head in confusion.

“White ball... is this for practice?”

“Yeah, that was the ball we used to play with.”

Takinoue followed behind her, then received the ball from her hands.

“We used to play with white balls like this in the past. The balls used nowadays, how should I put it, are all coloured, right? Those balls allow people to see the direction of spin much clearer, which is good, I guess.”

Kageyama, who was standing behind, nodded in agreement. Yachi made a sound in surprise, her expression full of curiosity as she looked at the white ball. She then noticed Hinata’s bicycle parked right beside, then shifted her attention to the net at the spacious yard.

“That’s Hinata, found him!”

Hinata looked as if he was practicing quicks with a female college student. On the other side of the net stood a few boys who looked to be in Junior high. Hinata, who was back facing Yachi, had not noticed that she and Kageyama had came.

The female college student spoke:

“Shouyou, I think that’s all for today.”

“Please, once more, just once more!”

She let out a smile, then said “This is the last, alright?” as she raised the ball. Hinata jumped.

Yachi smiled as she said “This is so typical of Hinata”, then looked at Kageyama, who was standing behind. Kageyama looked on excitedly, his eyes gleaming. This was the same expression he had at the barbecue party during the combined training camp.

“... If you want to play so much, you can join them too, Kageyama-kun.”

“C-Can I? Uh, but...”

Even as he showed a very happy expression for that slight second, Kageyama remained polite, which was very unlike his usual self. Yachi smiled, then waved towards Hinata.

“Hey, Hinata!”

Hinata turned around as he spiked the ball, his face surprised.

“Eh? Yachi-san? And Kageyama?! Why are you guys here?!”

“Kageyama-kun said he wants to join you guys in practice!”

“What? I didn’t say that!”

Kageyama pouted, but as soon as Hinata waved for him to go over, he threw his bag on the floor immediately and ran towards the net. Yachi was shocked by his speed.

“Uwah, t-that was fast... speaking of which, both of them really do love volleyball! How should I put it, this feels great.”

Kageyama set the ball immediately, and Hinata performed a quick enthusiastically. The younger children looked on in excitement.

“That’s awesome! Shouyou is so great!”

“Stupid, the coach said the taller guy is better.”

“Both are equally great!!”

Yachi looked on at the children and thought that these kids may one day become like Hinata and Kageyama. Can she herself find something to be passionate about?

Slowly, the kids starting gathering around Yachi. Yachi greeted them.

“Ah, hello everyone! Sorry for the intrusion!”

The children looked on at Yachi, then smiled happily and asked:

“Eh, you’re the girlfriend? Girlfriend? Eh, whose girlfriend are you?”

“Ehh?! I-I’m not... what are you guys talking about...!”

Yachi chased after the noisy children. Hinata looked at her and said in admiration:

“Yachi-san looked to be able to quickly become acquainted with the children. She can teach very well too. She should make a good teacher, right, Kageyama?”

“Instead of worrying about others, what is most important now should be your practice. If we want to make it to the nationals, we can’t afford to lose even one match.”

“I-I get it! You’re such a nag, seriously!”

Just then, a woman who looked about the same age as Hinata’s mother



entered with plastic bags from the super mart in her hands. She walked towards the old coach Ukai, who was sitting at the platform. They started chatting intimately.

“Ah, I need to greet the old coach Ukai as well!”

Yachi ran towards the old coach immediately. Takinoue, along with the children, followed behind.

“Uh, I’m Karasuno Men’s Volleyball Club’s manager, I’m Yachi!”

Yachi lowered her head nervously, the ex-coach on the other hand laughed heartily.

“I see, you’re the childrens’ nanny! It must’ve been hard on you, especially on such a hot day.”

“N-not a problem! I’m not tired!”

Looking at her nervous face, the woman smiled, then passed her the plastic bags.

“The store I worked at gave this to me, because the freezer had no space left, so they gave some to me. Come, take it and eat it quick, it’s gonna melt!”

“Uwah... so many ice pops!”

Hearing what Yachi said, the other children rushed forward as well.

“Is it ice pop? Is it ice pop?”

“Is there Garigari-kun?”

“I want chocolate-flavoured, help me grab one!”

Yachi could almost not move the body, getting surrounded by the children like this. She kept waving her hand.

“Hinata, Kageyama-kun, you guys take a rest too, let’s eat together!”

“Osu.”

Kageyama walked towards her with a ball in his hands, Hinata shouted “wait for me” as he rushed forward as well.

“You spoke as if you were so great, turns out you still chose ice pop over practice!”

Hinata smiled slyly as he poked Kageyama. Kageyama looked at him and said:

“... This is to stay hydrated.”

“Then, you could just drink water instead of eating ice pop!”

“Shut up!”

Seeing the two quarrel again, Yachi smiled, troubled. The slowly melting ice pop dirtied her fingers as she looked up the sky and mumbled:

“Speaking of which, this is the summer break, right?”

The bright moon against the cloudless night sky, the chirping of insects in the grass. The ex-coach, wearing casual bermudas, held a hand fan with his hands. The smoke of the mosquito repellent incense spiraled up the sky. With every day spent on practice, it nearly made them forget that most people are having their summer break right now.

—

“I can’t believe it’s this late already, I’m so sorry to have you accompany us!”

Hinata said loudly as he peddled on his bicycle. Yachi looked out from the van’s window and said:

“It’s no problem, I came here of my own will anyway! I’m really happy!”

On the road at night, Yachi and Kageyama were offered a ride home from Takinoue, while Hinata cycled beside the van.

Kageyama was already fast asleep, his head banging onto the window repeatedly. Seeing him fast asleep, Hinata was surprised.

“This guy can really sleep. He slept all the way through on Saeko nee-san’s car the other time too... Could it be true that the more you sleep the taller you grow? Could it be that his height grew while he was sleeping...?”

Seeing the change in Hinata’s facial expression, Yachi said with a look of regret:

“I sleep a lot too, but it’s no use.”

“Is that so...”

“Are you guys stupid.”

Takinoue smiled as he said, his hands on the steering wheel.

Hinata stopped in front of the cross junction, then waved towards the others.

“I’m heading in this direction, bye bye! See you guys tomorrow!”

“See you tomorrow!”

“Be careful!”

Yachi and Takinoue waved back while Kageyama was still fast asleep. On the now chilly road at night, the first year member and the club’s manager were finally on their way home.

—

“I say Yachi, there’s nothing wrong with being hardworking, but you should have at least informed me if you were coming home late. Report. Contact. Discuss. These are all the basic responsibilities one should have as a member of the society.”

Yachi, who returned home very late, missed dinner time. She got reprimanded the moment she stepped inside. She lowered her head desperately at the front door. Her mother, with her hands on her hip, frowned suddenly.

“...Speaking of which, you reek of sweat today.”

“Eh? Me?! Ah...!”

Yachi finally realised that she’s still holding onto the paper bag tightly on her right hand. Those were Hinata’s belongings—the towel and the knee pads.

“I-I wanted to hand over these items to him, that’s why I went...! Urgh, I’m an idiot! I’m a cricket!”

“Huh? Cricket? You are speaking nonsense again... Alright, go wash your hands and have dinner. I made the food by myself, so I can’t guarantee its taste!”

“Yes...”

The desperate Yachi removed her shoes, then walked towards the basin.

“Ah, I have to wash these...”

Yachi sighed as she looked at the paper bag. Although unwilling, the crumpled towel and knee pads reminded her of the gymnasium. Hinata and Kageyama, who continued practicing their quicks despite failure after failure; the other

members who practiced every day in order to pick up new skills...

Yachi looked up into the mirror.

“...Osu, I won’t lose! Someday, I must become a sensible club manager!”

“Hey, don’t be so loud!”

Hearing her mum’s voice coming out from the kitchen, Yachi replied loudly:

“YES!”

-end-

# Haikyuu!! Novel Volume 4: Everyone's Summer Vacation



A.K.A. Ennoshita's Great Suffering. Also, you will see how Ennoshita is 40% Daichi, 40% Suga, 20% Asahi, and 100% special.

- Throughout the chapter, there are many references to cicadas. Since it was summer vacation time, Ennoshita, Tanaka and Noya encountered and mentioned the cicadas and their songs. Ennoshita also had a nightmare in which they all turned into cicadas. Cicadas live underground as nymphs for years, and once they emerged from the soil, shredded their shells and became adults, they will soar and sing, no matter how limited their time is. Take from this analogy what you will :)

- Ennoshita Chikara has two problems: one is called Tanaka, the other one is called Nishinoya.

- Tanaka and Noya were strategically placing themselves and their summer vacation homework in front of Ennoshita. Ennoshita tried his best to avoid being dragged into their mess.

- Ennoshita's stress level was quickly rising because Tanaka, and he was spiking the balls really hard during practice. Proud papa Daichi thought Ennoshita was gaining more intensity. If only he knew.

- After practice, Ennoshita went to Sakanoshita Store to grab a bite... guess who were there with their homework? Ennoshita was wondering if he had gained two stalkers. He insisted that the two of them needed to do their own homework. And stopped begging. Ennoshita was like you guys get on your knees so often I am now immune.

- Ennoshita was so blunt and brutally sharp-tongued when facing Tanaka and Noya :D He was very firm that the two would get no help from him. Tanaka and Noya ended up promising they would do their own homework, but they wanted to meet at Ennoshita's house because reasons. Ennoshita could not comprehend the blabbering, but the bombardment worked because they got Ennoshita responding to their nonsense. Sensing a weakness, they pressed on and Ennoshita realized it was too late for him to avoid being dragged into Tanaka and Noya's mess. It was already too late a long time ago.

- So that was how Ennoshita ended up sitting on his bed listening to two idiots talking English. He finally relented and offered to help. Surprisingly, the two

refused, because they promised to do the homework themselves. Ennoshita somehow felt defeated.

- Tanaka and Noya were going to pull an all-nighter, and Ennoshita realized he would not be going to sleep because, again, reasons.

- One thing led to another, and Kiyoko-san's name was mentioned. With the invocation of the sacred name, Tanaka and Noya were fired up and showed the kind of focus that they usually only displayed on the volleyball court.

- Ennoshita fell asleep and had the cicadas nightmare, he woke up and found Tanaka and Noya had went and bought some coffee and snacks for the three of them. Tanaka handed the coffee to Ennoshita.

Ennoshita: Ah, thank you.

Noya: You are still half asleep huh, just a little bit more, do your best too Chikara!

Ennoshita: Ok... no wait a second, what do you mean "do your best"! Why do I have to stay up too?

Tanaka: Because we are a team.

Noya: Yep, it's a team play.

Ennoshita (smiled and drank the coffee): ...ya, you are right.

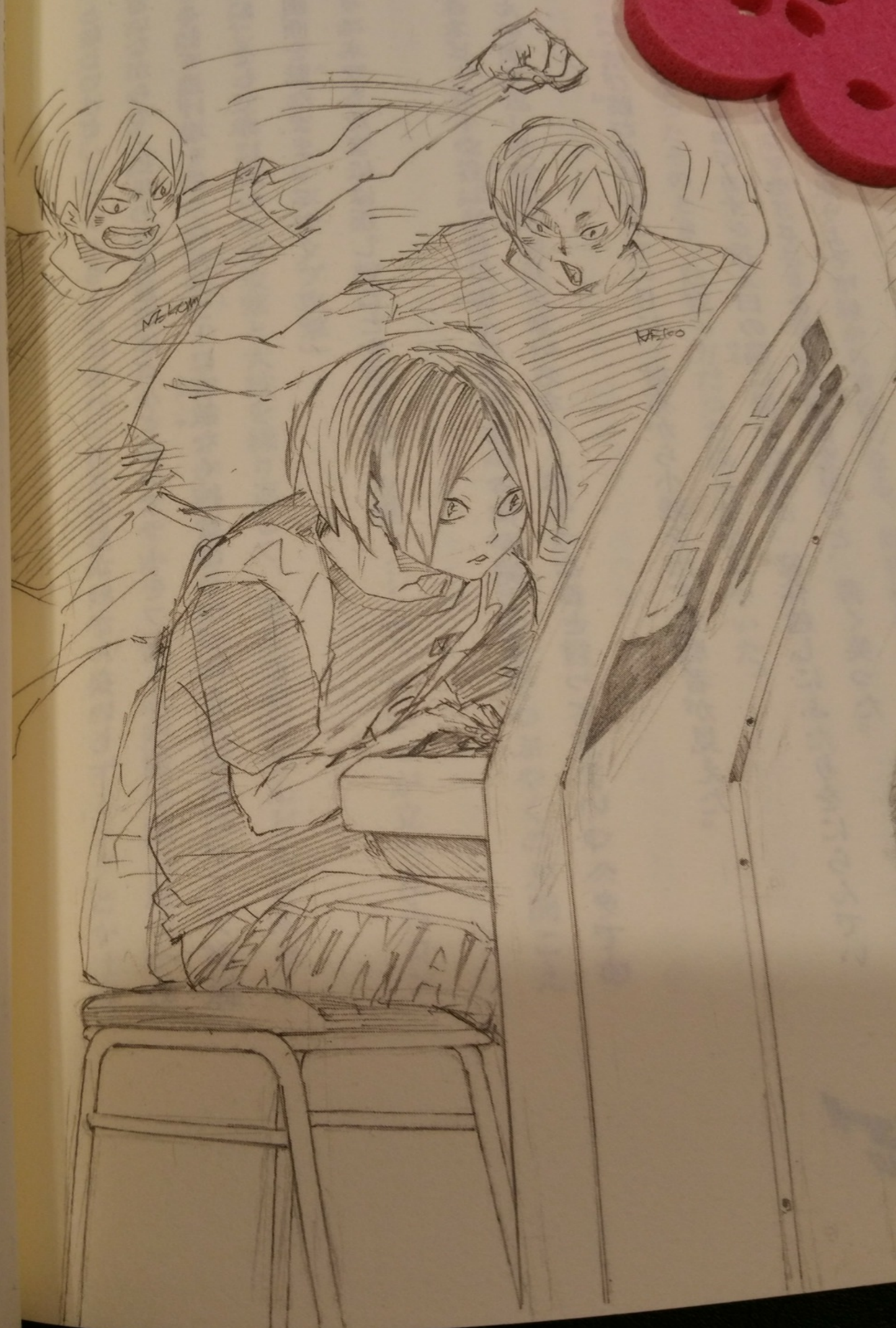
- Tanaka and Noya finished their homework, and Ennoshita reflected that no matter how difficult the situation was, these two never gave up or ran away. They always did what they had to do. And Ennoshita felt strangely proud of his teammates. Despite the fact they would have volleyball practice in a couple of minutes without getting any sleep at all, Ennoshita was satisfied.

RANDOM THOUGHTS: I am liking Ennoshita's personality more and more. He is truly the captain that Karasuno will need and deserve lol



# Haikyuu!! Novel Volume 4: Everyone's Summer Vacation

勝負開始の場とて、今度は孤爪の老武道家が最初から攻めていく。速い。  
「……あ、これってハメ技になるのか。じゃ、つまんないから……投げキャンセルで、足払  
（あしはら）いして投（な）げさせて……」  
「あ、緊（きん）がった！」



The Lord of Volleyball is very fair, for He gifts every team with at least one giant adorkable problem child. Also, 70% of this story is about Kenma being dragged everywhere by Nekoma's resident troublemaker.

- Video arcade gamer... Kenma... gamer... oh.
- Lev normally was not interested in video games, but this RPG game called Final Hunter Quest (FHQ) had been all over the TV commercials lately, so he wanted to try it.
- Lev asked Kenma to accompany him to buy the game. Kenma had, of course, already bought the game online, so he flatly refused. And Lev, of course, ignored him and kept talking, waved down a bus, and herded Kenma onto it. The rest of the team smiled and watched as Kenma shot them a "I hate you all" stare from the bus.
- Kuroo pointed out that Kenma was no match for loud noisy idiots.
- Since it was the game's release date, the game was sold out everywhere unless the person had a preorder.
- Seeing Lev being so disappointed, Kenma told him to go home... when Kenma finished the game, he would lend Lev the game...
- Lev decided that he was going to get the game one way or another, including dragging Kenma to the station so they could travel to another city (Shibuya, a popular shopping district).
- Grumpy Kenma was using Lev as a human shield to walk in the crowd :D
- Kenma suddenly stopped in front of a video arcade. Lev realized that Kenma was extremely interested, so they went into the store.
- Kenma went to get coins and look around. Lev watched a guy played a fighting game and blurted out that the guy sucked. Lev had never played the game before, but he recognized that the guy's reflex time and spatial recognition were bad.
- Kenma came back to see an oblivious Lev and an angry gamer. He guessed correctly that Lev said something unnecessary again, and Lev protested he only said the guy sucked because he really sucked. And then that guy got angry for no

reason. Dunno what happened. *[Child, I left you alone for a grand total of two seconds...]*

- Angry gamer was a bit intimidated by Lev's height, so he challenged Kenma to a game. Lev was fanning the flame "of course Kenma-san is stronger than you! Please duel him Kenma-san!"

- Kenma did not want to deal with people at all and ignored the challenge. He reminded Lev that they were in the city to buy a game and started walking out of the store.

- Lev, though, put a coin into the arcade game, and upon hearing the game's opening music, Kenma suddenly marched back to the machine without a word and put his hands on the control. *[Pavlov's... cat?]*

- Kenma's character was getting beaten up in the beginning, so Lev was worried. But Kenma was taking the time to observe his opponent and learn how the game worked, because he had never played this particular fighting game before. He ended beating the opponent without much problem.

- The opponent wanted a rematch. Kenma smiled and said "sure... it's futile though?"

- Kenma easily handled the opponent and even started experimenting new combos. He told Lev that Lev was right: it was quite fun to play with actual people once in while. Kenma looked like a hunting cat in its element so much that Lev was actually a bit scared.

- There was now a line of people waiting to fight Kenma. Lev wanted to leave to buy his video game, but now Kenma wanted to stay :D

- After Kenma's 20th win, they left the store and it was already night time. Lev was sad that he could not get the video game. Kenma felt bad, but Lev insisted that it was not Kenma's fault. There was no guarantee that the stores would have the game, and he had lots of fun cheering for Kenma. Kenma replied he had fun too. And Lev was delighted.

- The next day, Kenma lent the game to Lev. He had finished the game in one night lol Lev was touched because he thought Kenma rushed through the game just for him, but Kenma insisted that it was a easy win. Kuroo thought otherwise

:D

- Inuoka wanted to borrow the game after Lev, but Kai said Lev probably would not be able to beat the game until the end of the summer vacation. Yamamoto bet that Lev would get tired of the game very soon, like tomorrow.

RANDOM THOUGHTS: These “brief” summaries are getting longer and longer lol

# The powerhouses' summer (re-upload)

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The Powerhouses are known as powerhouses for a reason. It's not by coincidence for them to be that strong.

A good leader and the members' ability—these are but the main elements of a powerhouse. Any team that achieves good results during the matches will attract outstanding and well-known players to join. If they participate in practice matches with neighbouring schools actively, they can increase the chances of improving themselves. Only the strong will be given such opportunity—going by this logic, the strong will only get stronger.

Other than that, they will also participate in friendly matches with college teams. Because there is such discrepancy between the abilities of high school students and college students, some people might feel that the results are already fixed.

But it is not the matter of winning or losing. For the colleges, they could make use of their invitation towards these powerhouses to observe the players they'd like to have them join their own teams in the future, while the high school students can gain more experience through these matches.

“Oh, I see.....”

Hearing coach Oiwake's explanation, Futakuchi responded casually in the empty staff room.

“When I was in first year, I remembered getting invited by one of the colleges once?”

“This goes to show how much attention your current batch is under.”

Oiwake leaned against the chair quietly, his expression stiff while he spoke in his usual tone.

“Oh.....”

Although Futakuchi could understand that the coach was praising him, he couldn't feel straight up happy from it, his face slightly unhappy. They had always been strong even before his batch.

The sounds from the baseball and soccer club entered the room from the windows. Must be tough for them to do road runs on such a hot day, Futakuchi thought.

"..... Forget it, I look forward to this year too, we're in your care, new captain."

"Yes."

After losing in the Inter-high preliminaries, the third years have retired, and Futakuchi became Date Tech High's new captain. After bowing towards the coach, he left the staff room.

The school was quite vacant during the school break, and although the weather was way warmer now than during school term, Futakuchi felt that the school was huge and cold. On the corridors and front porch, Futakuchi walked past the other students occasionally, everyone of them in sports or practice attire.

"..... Everyone is taking their practices seriously, huh."

Although that's what he said, Futakuchi too, was wearing his sports attire, all dressed for practice. Even on a weather so hot, he continued walking towards the non air-conditioned gymnasium for practice.

—

"In other words, the college teams are scouting the members they had their eyes on? Although I don't like to be chosen this way by others, this could actually be a good experience. This is an opportunity for us to look at the other teams' condition. A lot of third year members from the other school have retired, so I guess it'll be somewhat different from what it was like during Inter-high."

Futakuchi explained to his members regarding one of the neighbouring colleges inviting them for a friendly match. The team, made up of Aone, Obara, as well as first year member Sakunami, among others, have all gathered at the gymnasium. As one of the powerhouses in Miyagi prefecture, it was no wonder the team had a lot of members.



“If we can make use of this opportunity to gain attention, getting a recommendation to enter college as a special student would no longer be a dream. In this way, we no longer need to take exams, nor do we have to go look for jobs, and since all of you are stupid, let’s make use of this opportunity to perform well and let the others realise your potential.”

Just as Futakuchi was joking, the door behind him opened.

“You guys, how dare you think of getting into college through short cuts! I don’t remember raising you guys up to be such despicable fellows!”

The heavy door was forcefully opened by Kamasaki, who shouted with a serious face. The retired third years have come to see their kouhais.

“No one spoke of those words, and I don’t remember being raised by you. Kamasaki senpai, what are you doing here? I heard that you’re very frustrated over the fact that you can’t get a job. Stop coming here to play and focus on your studies.”

Futakuchi sounded nothing like a kouhai, Kamasaki, provoked by his words, showed a face of displeasure.

“Don’t bother about me! The point is, didn’t you just mention about getting into college through short cuts?”

“Firstly, please get your facts right before talking to us about taking a short cut to entering college.”

“I’ll have you guys know I didn’t take the short cut!”

Seeing Kamasaki in his pompous state, Futakuchi couldn’t stand him at all, then mumbled to himself.

“..... Ignorance is a crime by itself.”

“Ah? Bruises? What are you talking about?”\*

\*Bruises (uchimi 打ち身) sounds similar to Ignorance (muchini 無知に)

Kasamaki retaliated threateningly. Just as Aone was about to step forward to stop their quarrel, Moniwa, who had been looking from behind and could not stand them any longer, displayed his attitude as the team’s former captain.



“ Alright, Futakuchi, that’s enough.”

“ ..... Yes.”

Futakuchi shut his mouth obediently. Aone heaved a sigh of relief, then took a step backwards. The former captain turned around and looked at the members, then, treating each of them like kids, reminded them.

“Listen carefully, during the friendly matches, please do not embarrass yourself. Be punctual at the venue, greet properly, don’t fight with the other schools, and never destroy the college’s facilities.”

Seeing Moniwa looking so worried, Futakuchi smiled bitterly.

“ ..... Of course we won’t. Moniwa senpai, what did you treat us as?”

“Says the person who always caused trouble! You and Aone!”

Moniwa was all angry yet worried, as if about to cry while pointing towards Futakuchi and Aone. Futakuchi showed his usual nonchalant expression.

“Did I?”

“ .....?”

Aone too, looked confused, his head tilted.

“Ah—yes, with only these guys joining the friendly matches, I’m really worried!”

Seeing Moniwa scratching his head unstoppably, other than Futakuchi and Aone, the other members were all full of guilt.

Not all members were treated as the “damned cocky kouhais”. The only ones who don’t take orders and are rude would be Aone and Futakuchi only. But to the third years, unfortunately, the ones that shone the most during matches were these two.

Futakuchi, one of the causes of the senpai’s worries, smiled slyly. Compared to playing volleyball, Futakuchi looked way more energetic than when he was pulling tricks on his senpais. Probably because he hadn’t played with the third years for awhile, Futakuchi’s mood was all great in that moment.

Having to continue with being victims of Futakuchi and Aone’s tricks even after

retirement, Sasaya, another third year student, found Moniwa to be very pitiful, and hence spoke gently.

“Moniwa, don’t you dare join in the friendly matches due to worrying for them.”

“I won’t. After all, I’ve already retired.....”

“No, this has nothing to do with being retired, if you go, you might suffer from gastric pain.”

“..... Is it that serious?”

Hearing his senpais’ conversation, Futakuchi intervened.

“That’s right, please place your trusts on your dear kouhais, senpai!”

Futakuchi said shamelessly. Seeing his smile, Moniwa sighed deeply.

“If you’re going to say this, you must try to earn my trust through your actions.....”

Just talking to his kouhais for that few minutes made Moniwa a weaker guy. Kamasaki, who was beside him, was still caught in confusion.

“So it wasn’t about bruises?”

—

On a certain morning in August, all members of Date Tech High School’s volleyball boarded the school bus, headed towards the venue of the friendly match with a neighbouring college.

The cloudless sky indicated that today will be a hot day. The picturesque sky had the mood of summer, but they were not headed towards the beach or the swimming pool, but the warm and smelly gymnasium.

The iron wall, made up of members above 180cm, together with its huge number of bench members (so much so it felt like a landslide advantage in any match), and also their bags made the bus look more crowded than it really was. Futakuchi, who was sitting right at the end, opened the pamphlet for the upcoming Miyagi prefecture Spring High preliminaries.

“I wonder what other schools are there.”

Aone, who was sitting beside him, looked quietly at the pamphlet as well.

“Those irritating guys from Shiratorizawa and Aoba Johsai would probably not be there. Probably just people from Wakutaninami, as well as the eye catching guy from the preliminaries this time.....”

Futakuchi dropped his hand.

“Hey, look. This guy must be 2 metres.”

Futakuchi saw a member from Kakugawa High who looked to be 2 metres in height, his name Hyakuzawa. His huge size could be seen even on the blurry photo. Aone’s eyes glistened, the other members slipped into a frenzy.

“That’s 10cm taller than Aone.....”

Futakuchi stared at the photo seriously, then focused onto Aone again. After staring at him for awhile, he laughed.

“..... This is interesting! I have to get him to take a photo with Aone! Relax, relax, you definitely win in terms of looking fierce! You’ll definitely not lose to him!”

Futakuchi laughed out loud while Aone was all troubled. Although he looked fierce from the outside, his height the core of the iron wall, his speed astonishing, deep down his personality was quite the opposite. Compared to these qualities, once he was away from volleyball, he’s actually a gentle, introverted teenager.

Except he’s a bit too stubborn, sometimes even purposefully “locking on” to the rivals, and also he falls easily under Futakuchi’s tricks. Hence to his senpais, he’s quite the troublesome kouhai.

Just as everyone was discussing enthusiastically about the 2 metres player, the bus had already reached the college. When the door opened, just as everyone was about to alight the bus, the coach, who was sitting at the front, suddenly turned to speak to his disciples.

“Listen carefully! Following the third years’ retirement, Date Tech High is at a new starting line once again! No matter who the opponents are, you guys have to stop them, pressure them! Let them see what you guys are capable of!”

“Yes!”

Famous for its iron wall, the members of Date Tech High’s volleyball club headed towards the venue for the friendly match.

—

“Hey, Obara, don’t you find it weird?”

Once they were in the campus, Futakuchi turned around suddenly. Obara, a fellow second year with a buzz cut, responded.

“In what way?”

“This is a college all right, but where are the female college students?”

“Probably because it’s summer break now.”

Hearing Obara’s words, Futakuchi gasped.

“Damn it, I have been cheated.....”

“.....I don’t think anyone did.”

Carrying the balls and baskets among other items, the team headed into the gymnasium while chatting about topics most high school boys were interested in. Once they reached the venue, that guy very naturally intruded into their line of sight.

It was a guy way taller than everyone in the gymnasium, just like an alien.

Futakuchi swallowed, and in a hoarse voice:

“..... Is that the 2 metres guy? This is really a wonder.”

We didn’t even have to go all out to look for him.”

The members of Kakugawa High have arrived at the gymnasium before them. Staring at the towering guy, Obara responded to Futakuchi. Futakuchi took a while before returning to his original nonchalant face, then poked his kouhai.

“Sakunami, go stand beside that guy.”

“..... Eh, that’s scary!”

The first year libero Sakunami looked up at Futakuchi, pleading. He was only 164cm, a huge difference of 40cm between him and the 2 metres guy. If the two

of them stood together, instead of saying that they look like adult and child, it looked more like a distortion of distance.

“How can you be scared? We might just play against them during the preliminaries.”

“T-That’s true.....”

Aone stood in front of Sakunami, as if protecting him, then lowered his head to look at Futakuchi, his attitude clearly reprimanding. Noticing his eyes, Futakuchi shrugged.

“..... I get it. Sakunami, go prepare the balls.”

“Yes!”

Sakunami heaved a sigh of relief, then, gathering his fellow first year members, ran in between the college students. Futakuchi shifted his attention between Sakanami’s back view, the 2 metres player and Aone, then mumbled to himself, impressed:

“You guys are really quite tall.”

“.....!!”

Aone’s expression was shocked, but Futakuchi meant to praise that his height was still impressive even among the college students. Although Futakuchi had no lack of confidence with his own build, at this moment he couldn’t deny that he did feel inferior against the other players.

“Don’t belittle me, I trained hard, too. However, this would sound as if Kamasaki senpai was the one who trained me, and that makes me slightly bitter. Also, his huge muscles made him look stupid!

Futakuchi complained as he looked at his own shoulders. Seeing the spiteful-tongued Futakuchi, Aone couldn’t help but feel slightly depressed.

—

There were two courts in the gymnasium, with Wakutaniminami already on the other court doing warm up exercises. The other court was occupied by Kakugawa High School and the college team. Once the 2 metres guy, Hyakuzawa, entered the court, the whole gymnasium was caught in a state of frenzy. Date

Tech High, whose match hadn't started, sat at the spectator's seat on the second floor

"There'll always be monsters like him, all tall and stumpy, just like a rock."

Futakuchi leaned against the railings as he observed what was happening downstairs, his face serious while passing spiteful remarks. Although known for their iron wall, the 2 metres guys still posed quite a threat to the members of Date Tech High volleyball club. Aone, the core of the iron wall, stared at the court silently.

The whistle sounded, and the match began.

Once it began, the 2 metres Hyakuzawa was positioned as the front guard. The net in front of him is 2.43 metres, but Hyakazawa only need to stretch his hands to go past the net. His very existence in front of the opponents was a pressure in itself.

The libero of Kakugawa received the powerful spike from the college team, then once the setter tossed the ball, Hyakuzawa jumped, the ball flying above the heads of the defending players from the other team. Having received the powerful spike, the college team prepared for another attack.

Everyone in the gymnasium looked forward to the 2 metres giant's defense, their eyes all focused on the court.

Hyakuzawa jumped.

Faced with a sudden giant wall, the college team was blocked.

Sounds of shock sounded throughout the gymnasium.

So huge. The court felt as though a giant tree had grown from the ground, and he's not just tall, he's very agile too.

"However, you're faster than him, your eyes more observant too."

Hearing what Futakuchi said while watching the match, Aone, who was right beside him, stared at the court too, then nodded in agreement. This was no baseless confidence, but an accurate assessment of his opponents by people who had been in all sorts of matches against other powerhouses many times. The two of them came to the same conclusion.

“He must be a rookie..... If we look at the overall performance of the team, it’s actually not that scary. Even if their opponents weren’t college students, they do feel slightly unreliable, the other players ordinary, too. However, if he were to become stronger by next year, it’ll be a different story.”

Aone nodded. They were definitely not looking down on their opponents, but they know very clearly that in matches, arrogance can cause their defense to crumble.

“Hence, the more scary ones now are.....”

Futakuchi looked at the pamphlet again. He flipped through a few pages, then stopped at the pages featuring Shiratorizawa’s Ushijima, as well as the photogenic, full of smiles Oikawa from Aoba Johsai. Futakuchi frowned.

“..... These schools whose third year players stayed.”

In May, Shiratorizawa High School won the Miyagi prefecture preliminaries for the Inter-high competition as usual. The third years from the defeated school would usually retire at this period to focus on studying for their exams or look for jobs. The same for the third years from Date Tech High such as Moniwa. But some third years from other schools did not retire, instead staying back to lead their teams to the Spring High.

These included schools such as Aoba Johsai and Wakutaniminami. Of course, Shiratorizawa was no exception.

Every school is troublesome in their own ways, but Futakuchi thought they weren’t unbeatable opponents. Because he has confidence that his own team is strong, too.

“I’ll never lose to the likes of Oikawa, that nonchalant guy.”

—

“..... Achoo!!”

Oikawa managed a loud sneeze. This is the gymnasium at Aoba Johsai High School. The vice captain Iwaizumi walked towards Oikawa expressionless, then threw a punch at him.

“I already told you many times, if you catch a cold at such important time, I’ll

punch you.”

“This is not a cold, you don’t have to hit me..... seriously, it’s such a sneeze, probably some girls from elsewhere were talking about me, please don’t worry about every small things.”

Iwaizumi continued punching Oikawa, his eyes cold.

“It’s really painful, Iwa-chan! Why are you hitting me?! This is too much?!”

“Because a fool wouldn’t understand whatever I say!”

“I didn’t even say anything!!”

Seeing the two of them quarrel like usual, Hanamaki, another third year member, mumbled to himself, irritated.

“..... An idiot who can’t understand what you say wouldn’t become smarter after a few punches.”

“Wait a minute, Hanamaki, don’t say words like this, they make me sad!”

Oikawa complained towards Hanamaki while Iwaizumi responded coldly.

“Your very existence is the root of our sadness.”

The kouhais looked at the third years, clearly troubled.

“Ah, why would Oikawa senpai say these infuriating words again.....”

“Oikawa senpai was all cool during matches.....”

Although forced to witness these embarrassing scenes everyday, the members actually trust Oikawa very much.

Oikawa would always observe his teammates carefully, then interact with everyone often. Instead of calling him caring towards the others, it would be more accurate to say he’s controlling the situation from a greater level.

Owing to him sharp observation, the team’s attackers could play at 100% of their capabilities. Oikawa as a setter was ranked number one in the prefecture.

Oikawa pressed on his head:

“Iwa-chan, I am the person who will throw Ushiwaka off from his throne, shouldn’t you appreciate me a bit more!”



Oikawa whined, while Iwaizumi stared at him, clearly irritated.

“Then don’t be so nonchalant!”

—

Ushijima’s spike vibrated throughout the gymnasium, scaring his opponents stiff.

This is Shiratorizawa volleyball club’s assigned gymnasium, and although their practice opponents were their senpais who are now in college, there was no detectable difference between the teams in terms of experience or stamina.

“Ushijima senpai has gotten scarier these days.”

“Probably because we’re nearing the matches.”

His kouhais glanced at him as they said.

Usually forgetting to take his meals due to him being engrossed in volleyball, once an upcoming match nears, Ushijima would be even more fired up than usual. Ushijima was known to be the country’s top three attackers, and even among the other top players in Shiratorizawa, Ushijima was still a notch above them, with no one able to catch up to him

In this champion team, he was an existence to be feared—

Ushijima only has himself for an opponent, the ordinary players meant nothing to him.

“One more!”

A genius. Ushijima Wakatoshi kicked up from the ground once again.

—

In the gymnasium at the friendly match, the match between Wakutaniminami and the college team had just begun. The members of Date Tech High, led by Futakuchi, started to observe Wakutaniminami on the court.

“..... Alright, let us see just how good you guys are.”

Wakutaniminami weren’t nervous even when faced with the college students, playing in the matches in their own pace. With their ace, the third year member Nakashima, as the core of their attacks, along with their smooth attacks and

secure defense, the team, made up of mostly third year students, is almost the same in overall power as Seijoh.

“..... Tch! They don’t have any loopholes at all. It’s indeed safer to have third years around!”

With the third years staying behind, the whole team looked confident. No, probably the fact that all the third years in the team have retired, along with the pressure of being the team’s captain made Futakuchi feel less confident than the players of Wakutaniminami.

Futakuchi realised that him thinking about the senpais’ retirement was not his usual style.

Although the captain was always nagging, he would always observe the members meticulously; although Kamasaki was an overall silly guy, he used his strong playing methods to lead the team; even the fogey-like Sasaya senpai was a very reliable senpai.

It was due to the guidance of these senpais that he and Aone could play and improve themselves freely. Can he really lead his kouhais like his senpais did, ensuring the growth of the team?”

“Those guys from Kakugawa high, their third years have retired too, right.....”

Futakuchi mumbled. Hearing him, Obara said jokingly:

“Why? Captain Futakuchi, do you wish for the third years to return?”

“How can it be!”

Finishing what he said, he kicked Obara in the legs.

“It’s painful.....”

Obara frowned. Stared at by Aone, Futakuchi shrugged.

“..... Hmm, Wakutaniminami, Seijoh and Shiratorizawa. Teams with their third years still around is really troublesome, but compared to how it was last year, there’s not much difference for these teams.”

Futakuchi then looked at his members.

“.....Also, no matter how good a team, as long as we block their attacks, they

will not score.”

The other members nodded confidently. Futakuchi continued:

“We have to block them. Our iron wall is our greatest defense, and also our fastest offense.”

Seeing his attitude, Obara was in shock.

“You look and feel just like a captain.....”

“Shut up!!”

Futakuchi shouted at Obara to hide his embarrassment. He thought of what his senpais said—when they lost during the Inter-high preliminaries, through the clubroom’s door, he heard the third years’ thoughts.....

– I really want to continue playing.

– I really don’t want to retire.

He never thought he’d heard this words coming straight out from their hearts as they sobbed. Also, Captain Moniwa’s words.

–The iron wall of next year, will never be destroyed.

After their match with Karasuno High School, the captain told Futakuchi and Aone: “You guys are very strong.”. Also, he had passed on the dream of “defeating Aoba Johsai, Shiratorizawa and Karasuno, then move on to the nationals” to them before retiring.

“.....”

Futakuchi clenched his fists.

He didn’t want the senpais to retire, he had wanted to fight alongside them in the Spring High preliminaries. However, probably because they have already retired, those who carry on their dream would display even greater power.

Futakuchi looked at his team made up of first and second years, then said quietly:

“We’re very strong!”

“Yes!”

Seeing his members respond in unison, Futakuchi was certain that everyone had the same thoughts as him. This brand new team will head towards the nationals, and win all the way.

Kakugawa's match had just ended, Date Tech High School is up next.

"Alright, let's go!"

"Yes!!"

The iron wall—this sturdy wall will never back down. They have to keep moving forward, destroying every strong opponent in front of them.

Now, the high spirited members of Date Tech High School volleyball team will enter the court. Carrying on with them the will of their senpais, they continue moving forward.

-end-

# The last summer (re-upload)

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“Scream louder, louder!”

On a morning during summer break, Karasuno men’s volleyball team captain Sawamura shouted.

They’re now practicing receives. On the other side of the net were Sawamura and coach Ukai, and when they served the ball, the members on the other side of the net would have to take turns to return the ball correctly. After Kageyama completed returning 10 times, the nervous Hinata prepares himself.

“Bring it!!”

Hinata shouted with vigor, then tried his hardest to receive Sawamura’s strong serves.

“Hinata! You’re only using your hands again!”

“Ah, yes!!”

Hinata responded energetically, but his face showcased a rare look of fatigue, he then wiped the sweat dripping off his chin with his hands.

So hot.

Although it was still morning, the second gymnasium the members of the men’s volleyball club were in was already filled with heat. Even the usually energetic Hinata found it tough, and no matter serving or receiving, everyone was covered in sweat, the floor wet and slippery from their sweat.

Sugawara observed everyone carefully, his eyes focused on Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi’s face looked pale, Sugawara then went under the net and walked towards him.

“Yamaguchi, don’t force yourself. Get something to drink.”

“..... Ah, yes!”

Seeing Yamaguchi walk out unstably with a pale face, Sugawara took a glance at Sawamura again. Just then, Hinata had completed his 10 returns, and Narita was next. Sugawara said “Sorry, wait a minute” while stopping Narita, then ran towards Sawamura.

“Daichi, I need to talk to you.”

“What is it about?”

“Uh, today’s really hot.....”

Seeing the captain and vice captain talking with a serious face, coach Ukai was troubled too.

“..... Then, what should we do next?”

It’ll be the Spring High preliminaries in a few days, and to the members, there was simply no time to waste. As long as they continue practicing, they’ll improve further and further, and they still had a lot to improve on. In other words, practicing was their only way to improve, and they themselves too, wanted to continue practicing.

But on such a hot day, if any of them should fall sick due to over practicing, joining the competition would be out of the question. If they enter the competition without being fully prepared, they may just lose the match they could originally win.

Faced with these high school students prone to pushing themselves to the limits, coach Ukai was especially worried.

“Hey, gather!”

Ukai raised his hand.

Hearing his voice, the members stopped at what they were doing, including Sawamura and Sugawara, who were still amidst their discussion, and Yamaguchi, who was wiping off his sweat at the corner of the gymnasium. They ran towards Ukai.

Looking at the members gathered in front of him, Ukai said shortly:

“Take a break in the afternoon.”

“What?”

Hearing the coach’s sudden words, all the members were caught in shock. Initially they had thought that the coach was going to announce a new practice item, or that he was going to reprimand them, hence when faced with such unexpected words, all of them were taken aback, to the point where they couldn’t quite comprehend for a moment what the words “take a break in the afternoon” meant.

Just as the members were caught in a daze, Sawamura and Sugawara heaved a sigh of relief, then glanced at each other. They were just discussing whether to let their members, some of them even showing signs of heat stroke due to the heat, to take a rest.

“It’s too hot today, plus there’s the preliminaries soon, it’ll be bad news if anyone of us fell sick at this time. Everyone, take a good break in the afternoon. Listen carefully, don’t occupy yourself with any other things, just concentrate on resting up! Especially Hinata, no going to my gramp’s place to practice!”

“Ah? Yes, got it!”

Tanaka and Nishinoya finally understood what the coach meant. The two of them jumped around while holding hands. “Awesome! We’re getting a break!”, they shouted. Seeing the excited duo, Sawamura reminded them immediately:

Tanaka, if you hurt yourself from playing too much..... you know what to do, right?”

Sawamura’s glare sent a shiver down Tanaka’s spine. He shook his head.

“I-I won’t! I will take a good rest!”

And with that, the members of Karasuno men’s volleyball club began their unexpected break.

—

“I’ll take a leave first!”

Hinata, the last member to walk out of the club room, bowed towards the third years, who were waiting outside.

“Yeah, don’t push yourself too hard, have a good rest.”

“Yes!”

After every member had left the clubroom, Sawamura, Sugawara and Asahi, the third year members, locked up the clubroom. Under the hot sun, the chirps of cicadas sounded mercilessly around. All of them looked at each other.

“Alright, what shall we do then?”

Sawamura couldn't hide his troubled look while asking the other two.

It was no wonder that they would feel at a loss, following the coach's sudden declaration of a break. According to Kageyama, Aoba Johsai had set aside a day every week specially for taking break, but it was unsure what everyone would do on those days.....

Sugawara shrugged, at a loss of what to do too.

“Then, let's head home and prepare for exams.”

“Eh? S-Study?”

Seeing Azumane's shocked expression, Sugawara feigned ignorance while saying “I'm joking”, then smiled. Then, he took a glance at Sawamura, curious.

“Daichi, have you been studying?”

“Hmm? I guess so.”

Hearing Sawamura's natural response, Sugawara looked to the sky, clearly surprised.

“Are you for real.....”

“Hey, hey! I said I guessed so, I think I studied!”

“Really?”

Ignoring the two, who are currently in the college prep class and their threats against each other, Azumane, unsure of what to do, said softly.

“I..... I was thinking of either entering a specialised school to pick up a set of skills, or just go look for a job..... What should I do.....”

Hearing this, Sawamura turned around suddenly.

“Hey, Asahi, remember to shave off your beard when going for job interviews.



If you scare your interviewers with your looks, everything is done for!"

"I-I know that....."

Azumane touched his beard, Sugawara joined in.

"Or you might as well keep your beard, then tell the interviewer "I'm willing to shave off my beard for your distinguished company!", then shave it off on the spot, how's that?"

"Oh, I didn't think of that. Indeed, if the department head is someone who likes sengoku generals, they'll probably like such self-promotion methods."

"Right."

Seeing the two's excited looks, Azumane complained while touching his beard.

"You guys, laughing at others like this....."

The back of the school was covered with weeds, their short and dark shadows cast on the ground. The three of them had no idea at all how to spend the rest of the day, hence decided to leave the school compound first.

"So hot....."

"Shall we go get ice pops?"

"Then let's head on to Sakanoshita."

Once they reached Sakanoshita, they saw their kouhais chatting with each other while eating ice pops. The lively scene in front of them had them stop in their footsteps.

"Let's go....."

"Yeah....."

Noticing the three of them heading out, the other members bowed towards them from behind the windows. The third years waved, then thought of their next destination.

"What should we do?"

"It's tiring staying outdoors."

Just then, Sugawara showed a face of mischief, as if he had thought of

something. He looked at the two.

“Hmm, with a rare opportunity like this, how about we do something related to summer?”

“Do something?”

“What about us taking a break?”

Although slightly taken aback, the two of them were not completely oblivious to Sugawara’s feelings. Every summer break they’d had to return to school—

Or probably precisely because it was the summer break, they had to do strict training from morning till night. They fully understood how much of a waste it was to spend the whole of summer break lying on their beds doing nothing.

“Daichi, anything you want to do?”

Thrown with that question, Sawamura, who was prone to be engrossed in deep thoughts all the time, mumbled to himself, his arms folded.

“Hmm, something related to summer.....”

“How should I put it, for example while attending festivals, a lady in her yukata with cotton candy in her hand, then when the rope on her clogs snaps in front of me, I’ll.....”

Azumane’s eyes glistened, and started looking around, but Sugawara burst his bubble almost immediately.

“Such things will never happen in real life. If it does happen, that lady must be the scheming type.”

“..... What, that sounds scary. Ah, let’s go swimming then.”

“We don’t have our swimming trunks with us.”

“That’s true. As we grow older, it becomes rarer for us to do something strictly for summer. This feels so sad, as if we can’t return to the past even if we went cicada catching.....”

Seeing Azumane fall into a deeper sadness, Sawamura regained his usual captain-like expression.

“Hmm, the break was for us to take a rest, so let’s just return home, let

ourselves rest.....”

Sawamura had yet to finish his sentence when Sugawara, suddenly a face of seriousness, intervened.

“Wait a minute! It’s not just with our body, relieving stress is also one way of resting, right! We’ve been thinking too much about club issues lately, I think Daichi should forget about volleyball matters sometimes? Isn’t there this saying from the past: “good fortune comes with laughter”? Having fun is very important too!”

seeing Sugawara this passionate, Sawamura and Azumane gasped. Then, both of them laughed at the same time.

“Suga, you felt like Tanaka just now. Forget it, since you said it, then let’s have fun together.”

“Then let’s think of what to do.”

Hearing the two, Sugawara was all smiles.

“Whatever it is, we have to let our minds and bodies feel re-energised while taking a break, why not we head to the bowling centre?”

“Bowling centre, huh..... it’s indeed cooler indoors.”

“We can relieve our stress as well.....”

Sawamura and Azumane agreed with Sugawara’s suggestions, their minds already at the bowling alley. Hence, the three of them headed towards the train station.

—

Bang!!

At the same time the floor vibrated, a loud bang sounded throughout the centre, then followed by cheers.

“..... Oh yeahhhhhhhhhhh!!”

Azumane had hit a strike, his fists clenched while posing victoriously. Hearing his voice, the other customers at different alleys were slightly shocked, then turned around to look at Azumane, thinking that something had happened.

“That bearded guy is really awesome.”

“Strong guys are indeed different.....”

As if praising him for hitting a strike, the light bulbs alongside the alley flickered. Azumane stood in front of the alley, then turned around like an excited child.

“Did you guys see that? Saw it? It’s a strike!”

However, Sawamura and Sugawara, who were sitting behind him, showed an expressionless face, the complete opposite of Azumane’s excited face.

“You’re just using your strength.”

“Yeah, you’re great, but Asahi, don’t throw the ball, it’ll bounce.”

Hearing their comments, Azumane sank his body.

“It’s so difficult for me to get a praise from you guys.....”

Sugawara smiled while peeling off the packaging for his chocolate mint ice cream layer by layer.

“However, this is very much your style. Daichi’s next.”

“Alright!”

Sawamura was all ready for his turn, he reached into the bowling machine with his hands, then polished the ball with the towel provided, then placed his hands on top of the hand dryer to blow-dry his hands.

“How are you so experienced?”

“Eh? What’s that? Isn’t that the ventilator for the machine?”

Sawamura glanced at the surprised Azumane and Sugawara, then responded in a deep voice.

“This is to ensure a tight grip on the ball, so we have to blow-dry our hands first. It’s called a hand dryer.”

Seeing the two looking impressed by what he said, Sawamura held the ball to his chest while taking small steps towards the alley, then swung his hands behind.

“Oh oh, such smooth posing!”

“This looks awesome!”

Hearing the two cheer from behind, Sawamura released the ball, which, as if sucked into the pins, traveled in a straight line in the middle of the alley. With a “bang”, all 10 pins fell. It’s a perfect strike.

“How did you do that! Why are you so good at this!”

“Daichi, don’t tell me you own a bowling ball?”

Sawamura returned to the seats, his face calm as the other two continued pestering him due to excitement. Sawamura took a glance at the bowling alley again.

“No, it’s usual for the first bowl to be like this, I’m still lacking in strength in my wrist.....”

Sawamura tilted his head, as if dissatisfied with his performance. Azumane intervened.

“Your standards are too high!”

News pins appeared on the alley as Sawamura’s ball returned on the machine.

It was finally Sugawara’s turn.

“Hold on to this for me.”

Sugawara handed over his half-eaten ice cream to Azumane, then picked up a ball and said:

“Are all bowling balls this heavy?”

He wiped the ball the same way Sawamura did, then blew his hand dry on the hand dryer awkwardly.

“With you two hitting strikes, I can’t be the only one hitting the gutter, this is so stressful.....”

Sugawara stood on the alley with a serious face. After a few steps, He swung his hand backwards while shouting.

“Hit them all!”

Just then, something unexpected happened. The ball fell out from Sugawara's hand, then flew behind.

“Woah!”

Sugawara turned around quickly, then saw Sawamura rushing to catch the ball from under it by reflex, with Azumane grabbing Sawamura to stop him from doing so.

With a loud bang, the ball dropped onto the ground. Azumane said with a raised voice:

“Daichi! You can't receive the ball like that! You'll break your bones!”

“Ah ah, that's right..... I didn't think through.....”

“You can't be like that!”

Probably thrown away by Azumane in a frenzy, Sugawara's chocolate mint ice cream dropped onto the floor, melted. Sugawara picked up the ice cream immediately, then clasped his hands together awhile apologising.

“I'm really sorry! Because I've always wanted to try bowling since elementary school.....”

“That's why you suggested coming here.....”

Azumane smiled bitterly while helping to clean up the floor. Sawamura frowned while staring at the ball on the floor.

“There's no other choice.....”

He mumbled while standing up. Sawamura then stared at Azumane and Sugawara.

“I'll make use of this opportunity to teach you guys a thing or two then.”

“What?!”

“W-What, and why.....?!”

Sugawara and Azumane looked at each other, clearly aware just how strict Sawamura's “teachings” will be.....

“My hand hurts.....”

“Tap, tap tap, swoosh and release the ball..... Tap, tap tap, swoosh and release the ball.....”

Initially wanting to re-energise and relieve stress through bowling, the three of them were all beaten after settling the bill.

“I think we played a bit too much.....”

“What do you mean “a bit”? Asahi, look, if I continued any further I wouldn’t be able to walk.”

“Tap, tap tap, swoosh and release the ball..... release the ball.....”

Azumane had Sawamura’s teachings etched into his mind. Seeing Azumane repeating his words continuously, Sawamura was all guilty.

“I feel slightly embarrassed, getting so engrossed in teaching like this.....”

Once the automated door opened, the heat from outside gushed in, stopping them in their footsteps. The hot weather finally brought Azumane back to his senses.

“Woah, it’s so hot outside..... although I don’t feel like going out, if I stayed here any longer I’ll have to continue bowling with Daichi.....”

“It’s thanks to this hot weather that we get to take a break from our club activities.”

Azumane and Sawamura took a step backwards, the door closed again. Sugawara pulled on his collar to fan himself while saying:

“So hot..... I feel like eating shaved ice—”

“Right, Suga didn’t finish his ice cream earlier on.”

“..... Sorry.”

Seeing Azumane bow in apology, Sugawara smiled.

“Don’t take it to heart, actually, it’s all due to me flinging the ball out!”

The three decided to walk out once again. They set foot on the road under the blaring sun and walked towards the dessert shop nearby.

“I’ll have Ujikintoki then.”

Sawamura said as he looked at the shaved ice menu, his face facing the electric fan on the wall.

In this small and old shop, the tanned kids filled the area, each with a bowl of shaved ice in front of them. Some of them screamed in horror when their shaved ice fell to the floor due to their own carelessness; others ate it in one big mouthful, then suffered from brain freeze soon after.

“Then I’ll have Blue Hawaii.”

Sugawara passed Azumane the menu after deciding. Sawamura asked:

“Speaking of which, what flavour is Blue Hawaii?”

“Hmm, how should I put it? Something like the refreshing southern ocean?”

“Ocean? Is it salty?”

“..... What do you think.”

Sawamura picked up the hand fan on the table and fanned himself while discussing with Sugawara the mysteries of Blue Hawaii. Azumane, who was sitting opposite them, continued reading the menu.

“Should I get strawberry milk ice or lemon milk ice? But melon milk ice sounds delicious too..... Ah, I get to up-size with an additional 50 yen.....”

The three of them squeezed together at the table beside the window. Suddenly, someone knocked from outside the window.

“Hmm?”

They lifted their heads and looked out. The person outside the window was the retired ex-captain of the women’s volleyball team Michimiya.

“Hi!”

The three of them saw Michimiya raise her hand outside the window, her smile bright. She was wearing a t-shirt and miniskirt while carrying a bag pack—her casual look.

Seeing Michimiya not wearing her school uniform or sports attire, the three of them tensed up.



“Oh, um, long time no see. We haven’t seen each other since the graduation ceremony, right?”

Michimiya leaned on the window ledge once Sawamura opened the window. She asked:

“Ah. Right, don’t you guys have practice today? Surely you guys didn’t run away.”

“Yeah, today’s weather is too hot, so coach Ukai let us off for the afternoon.”

Sawamura replied. Sugawara continued.

“So the three of us are here to do something related to summer.”

Michimiya laughed.

“So you guys are here to eat shaved ice? What a standard way to enjoy your summer break.”

“What about you?”

Hearing Sawamura’s question, Michimiya was slightly embarrassed.

“I just had my driving lesson. I just turned 18 not too long ago.”

Hearing this, the three of them responded with “Oh oh!” at the same time.

“You’re already an adult.....”

“While we’re still here having shaved ice.....”

Seeing the three of them lowering their heads due to feeling dejected, Michimiya smiled, then straightened her back.

“Then, I’m heading to my granny’s house next. Ah, speaking of things related to summer, remember to complete your assignments! I can’t help you guys with that!”

After that, Michimiya waved again, then crossed the pedestrian crossing.

—

“..... That’s her casual look, right?”

Sugawara mumbled in shock while Azumane nodded, his face surprised.

“It’s a t-shirt, but with laces.”

The wind chime sounded as the electric fan blew towards it, Then, Sawamura mumbled to himself:

“There won’t be any practice anymore after retiring.”

Hearing what he said, Sugawara and Azumane came back to their senses.

“That’s right, and probably because so she’s wearing her casual clothes.”

“Will every day after we retire be like this? I don’t know what to do then.....”

The word “retirement” became very real all of a sudden. The two were waiting for Sawamura to say something, while he responded with a granted attitude:

“Yeah, we’re already in our third year, be it studies or job-hunting, ah, there’s taking driving lessons too, we probably have a lot to do.”

“Exams, huh.....”

“Our future, huh.....”

They couldn’t imagine their future not too far away.

It was no wonder they’d think this way, because they are still trying to figure out even the practices for the upcoming Spring High preliminaries. Everyone can still further improve their skills, and they could also look into new attacking moves.

The ever-growing Karasuno men’s volleyball club could not even predict what would happen tomorrow.

The preliminaries will happen soon, and if they win they’d be able to take part in the representatives playoff in October, and soon after..... Their goal still remained unclear, and they could only see the future with each and every match won.

“The first step is to win the preliminaries.”

Sawamura mumbled, the others with the same thought as him. Win the preliminaries, then take it from there on.

“The sun is setting soon..... let’s return to school to confirm our members’ line up after finishing our desserts. We have rested enough, and returning to school

is not considered practice, right?”

Hearing the captain’s words, Sugawara laughed happily.

“I was just about to say that!”

“M-me too!!”

Sawamura and Sugawara smiled seeing Azumane’s flustered face. Then, they finally placed their order for the shaved ice.

“Sorry, we would like to make our orders! We’ll have Ujikintoki, Blue Hawaii, and..... Asahi, what do you want?”

“Eh? I, wait a minute! Uh uh, strawberry and lemon milk ice..... Ah, no, I mean strawberry and melon milk ice!”

—

When the three of them returned to school, they first met with the five second year members. They saw the five of them walking in front while entering school.

“What are you guys doing.....?”

Hearing Sawamura from behind, Tanaka and Nishinoya, along with the others, turned around, then finished their ice pops in big mouthfuls.

“Why are you guys at school?” Sawamura asked again. Tanaka looked at Ennoshita, pleading for his help.

“No, we..... How should I say this.....”

Ennoshita had no choice but to speak up on behalf of his fellow second years.

“Uh, we’re thinking of heading to the gymnasium to play..... no, instead of calling it playing, uh..... we were thinking of playing with the ball, it’s not practice, I guess it’s fine.....?”

Seeing how his kouhais all looked like they were caught in the midst of doing something sneaky, the third years looked at each other. They too, were thinking of the same thing as their kouhais.

“..... Forget it, let’s head to the gymnasium first.”

“Yes!”

The eight of them headed towards the second gymnasium together. Everyone had an awkward look on their faces, and just then a familiar voice sounded.

“Hinata, you stupid!”

The sound came from the second gymnasium.

“That was Kageyama’s voice, right?”

“I don’t think he’s shouting alone, looks like Hinata is in there too.”

“The first years have just left Sakanoshita a while ago, have they already returned to the gymnasium.....”

The second and third years rushed into the gymnasium. The door was left open to allow the wind to blow in. They peeked into the gymnasium.

“These guys.....”

The first years were all gathered at the gymnasium, none of them noticed that the senpais had returned as they sat in the middle of the court, unsure what they were looking at. It appeared as if they were looking at Tsukishima’s smart phone.

“Oh oh, it spins! That’s awesome! The smart phone is so awesome, they can do everything!”

“The video is not from the smart phone, but from the Internet. Hinata, wait a minute, can you stop pressing the screen.....”

“I guess we need to let Hinata watch the practice clips meant for kids for him to understand?”

“What did you say!”

“No, I mean it makes things easier to understand.....”

“You don’t even have the strong basics, so of course you need to start from the basics.”

“I get it! But then it’ll become practice!”

Although there were only the four of them, they were very noisy. Sawamura sighed, then shouted towards them.

“What are you guys doing?”

Hearing the captain’s voice, all of them turned to look at him. The originally noisy gymnasium became quiet all of a sudden. They then hurried over to the front of the door.

Hinata was all stiff, then answered Sawamura nervously.

“I wanted to practice “ROLLING THUNDER” .....! No, because we can’t practice now, so I’m not saying I want to practice it now..... Uh uh, Kageyama you something too!”

“..... Hinata said he wanted to learn rolling receives, but I don’t think this is considered practice, at most it would only be considered as us playing around.....”

After Kageyama’s explanation, Tsukishima mumbled.

“That’s why I said I want to go home.....”

“Tsukki!”

Sawamura looked at the four first year members, then the second year members behind them, then Sugawara and Azumane. He sighed a deep breath.

“What are we doing on a rare break like this.....”

“Forget it forget it, everyone’s really pumped for practice!”

Sugawara smiled, Sawamura mumbled “really?”, then regained his composure and said:

“..... Then, let’s have a meeting!”

“Yes!!”

Hearing all the members replying in unison, the third year students looked at each other with a bitter smile.

“We’re really hopeless.....”

“Forget it, everything is fine as long as there is volleyball.”

“In the end, we just happened to gather together to play volleyball, that’s all there is to it.”

– That’s all.

Just how much significance is there to these words?

The first round of preliminaries for the Spring High tournament would begin soon. If they lose in the first round, the third years would have to end their club activities. But they were not all solemn, because the people who decide on their own paths will always keep their heads high—

They’ll only look forward, then take their first step out.  
Only by accumulating their every step would they be able to carve out their paths towards the future.

In the first and last summer break in their third year, all they could do now is to take that step forward.

-end-

# Natsu's adventure (re-upload)

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Just as the high school students were enjoying the summer season in August, elementary school students were, of course, having their summer break too. While Hinata was away from home to participate in his club activities, how did Natsu spend her summer break?

Let's take a look at the situation in Hinata's house——

—

A cooling breeze blew in from the courtyard and the wind chime tinkled. A little girl was sleeping on a broad Japanese tatami with her belly exposed, her hands gripping tightly onto her blanket.

Natsu was sleeping one afternoon during the summer break. After finishing her lunch, she became even more sleepy.

"Nat-chan, I'm going out to buy some things, do you want to come along?"

Her mum's voice came from inside the house, but Natsu was sound asleep, mumbling to herself in her dream, then turned over her body and continued sleeping.

Although a mosquito repellent incense was placed in a pig-shaped ceramic ware, Natsu was still bitten by mosquitoes, the mosquito bites red and swollen on her legs. Natsu scratched her legs while sleeping.

"Hey, Nat-chan."

Her mum slid open the paper door, then walked into the washitsu\*.

(\*washitsu simply refers to a Japanese-styled room.)

"It's about time to wake up. if you sleep too much now, you won't be able to sleep at night."

Natsu's mum patted on her cheeks while she said.

“..... uh, oh.”

Natsu sat up, rubbing her still heavy eyelids. Her face still retaining the indent marks from lying on her face on the tatami. Natsu then said:

“..... I need to pee.”

“Hurry then. Mama is heading out to buy stuff, want to come along?”

“Yeah!”

Natsu liked going out, hence she became energised all of a sudden. She stood up, all full of energy, then walked out of the washitsu with big steps.

“To the toilet to pee~!”

“Hey, Nat-chan!”

Her mum shouted towards the corridor, but all she heard was the sound of Natsu closing the toilet’s door.

“She really does take after Shouyou.....”

Her mum managed a troubled look, then took the house key and car key from the cabinet.

Shouyou is Natsu’s brother, and although sometimes mistaken for a junior high student, he’s actually already in his first year of high student. Although it’s the summer break now, he still goes to school every day, not for studying, but to attend his “club activities”. Natsu would cheer on her brother too, but not getting to play with her brother during the summer break made her slightly unhappy. Previously her brother had even left home for a week for his “training camp”.

Natsu, who had just finished her lunch, told her mum:

“I think Ni-chan is becoming cold these days.”

Hearing that, her mum laughed amusingly.

“Where did you learn to say this?”

Her mum seemed to treat her like a child, and Natsu was upset again. Natsu is no longer a kindergarten kid, but an elementary school student, a big girl. However, both her mum and brother would still treat her like a child, hence



Natsu often thought that everyone “didn’t understand her”.

—

Carrying her favourite bag, Natsu got onto her mum’s car. Then, before mum reminded her, she put on the safety belt obediently.

Broooooom, the engine sounded and the car started to move. Natsu pressed her forehead against the window as usual, looking out the car.

There were a lot of road signs along the road, which Natsu found interesting. If she saw the sign with a bicycle or with children on it, she’ll feel very happy. Earlier, she had even seen a sign with a monkey drawn on it along the road on the hills.

But now that they’re heading out to buy stuff, they’ll not be going to the hills, but Natsu was nonetheless happy. Because she could probably get mum to buy cute erasers, stickers or snacks for her.

Just as Natsu was busy looking at the road signs, the car had already arrived at the shopping street, which the mother and daughter frequented.

Then, she heard her mum exclaim “Eh?”, so she shifted her attention from the road signs to her mum on the steering wheel.

“Right, oh no, today’s the holiday for Obon\*.”

(\*Obon = Lantern festival)

Hearing what mum said, Natsu looked out towards the row of shops.

No matter the meat store selling croquettes, the fruits and vegetable store that’d sometimes give her sweets sometimes, or the salon with Lucky the shiba inu, everyone was closed for business, their shutters pulled down.

“What should we do?”

Seeing mum’s worried face, Natsu became worried too. She scratched onto the mosquito bites on her legs, but just then mum smiled.

“Then let’s head to the super mart further down!”

“Yeah!”

Natsu felt happy, because there’s a food street near the super mart—mum

would probably treat her to ice cream.

Then, mum said something that made Natsu happier.

“..... Right! Since we have the time, let’s head to the shops near Shouyou’s school! We need to venture into new territories sometimes.

“Eh? Are we going to Ni-chan’s school?!”

Natsu’s heartbeat became louder. She hadn’t been to the shops nearby her brother’s school, which was a hill away.

“We’re not going to his school.”

Mum reminded Natsu, but she was still very excited.

“But, maybe we would run into Ni-chan!”

“That’s true, then let’s head over there!”

Natsu’s mum restarted the engine, then headed toward’s Karasuno, where Natsu’s favourite brother is at.

—

The car tried very hard to scale the steep slope, its engine sounding louder than usual, as if very tough. Natsu’s mum spoke:

“Shouyou has to ride his bicycle on this slope every day.....?”

Natsu, who just had the training wheels removed from her bicycle after learning to ride it, said to her mother:

“Can I come here in my bicycle next time?”

“..... No way.”

“Why!”

“Because if you fall together with your bicycle, you’ll be hurt badly.”

Mum had spoken in a very interesting manner, so Natsu, who would usually become upset because she was “treated like a kid again”, laughed this time.

Once they passed the hill, they arrived at the town. The shopping street here looked similar, yet different than the one they usually go to. Natsu looked on excitedly at Karasuno town.

“Alright, let’s go to that super mart.”

Mum pointed towards a super mart in front. Once she saw the shop sign, Natsu exclaimed.

“Mr. Piggy.....”

It’s no wonder Natsu would be surprised, because on the sign was a pig cut into pieces, and, as if inviting others to eat it, was placed on top of a plate.

“How should I put it, it seems slightly cruel and weird at the same time..... but meat products should be their specialty, probably they sell tasty bacon here.”

Natsu’s mum noticed the signboard too, and said while she parked the car in the car park. Natsu felt hungry just thinking about the crispy and juicy bacon on eggs and those rolled with asparagus. Then, Natsu followed her mum into Shimada mart. The air con was cooling inside the mart.

“Right, since we haven’t been here before, finding what we want here might be slightly more difficult.”

Her mum said while smiling. Indeed, if they were at the mart they frequented, Natsu would know exactly where items such as snacks, yogurt and pudding were placed, but in a shop they’re visiting for the first time, they’d have to look everywhere.

“Then let’s split up. Mama will look at the vegetables here, Nat-chan will help mama look for eggs.”

“Yes, roger!”

Natsu saluted her mum, then went on to look for eggs.

“Egg, egg.....”

Walking past the vegetables and fruits section, Natsu found the egg shelf near the fish counter. She exclaimed gleefully:

“Found it immediately!”

Then, she reached out to grab a tray of eggs, but she stopped, her hands in mid-air. There were too many varieties to choose from, and not taking quail eggs and onsen eggs into consideration, there were brown eggs, eggs packed in nets,

and also trays with different number of eggs. Natsu was confused.

“Six for 148 yen, 10 for 198 yen, this..... 548 yen, so expensive.”

Natsu stared at the prices on the egg trays, unsure which tray to take. She recalled what her mum and teachers told her before.

– When in trouble, look for an adult.

That’s right, if she met with any trouble at the train station, she could look for the station master; if she met with any trouble on the bus, she could look for the driver; if she met with any trouble in the shops, all she needed to do was approach one of the staffs politely.

Natsu looked around her to find the shop’s staff.

Then, she found a bespectacled big brother wearing an apron with Mr. Piggy printed on it. Because the big brother was busy pasting the “special offer” stickers on the fishes, Natsu was hesitating whether to ask him or not, but in order to bring the eggs to her mum, Natsu worked up her courage.

“Uh, sorry, but which egg over here is better?”

“Huh?”

The bespectacled big brother turned around—he’s actually Shimada from the neighbourhood association volleyball team. But of course Natsu didn’t know who he was.

“Eggs you say? Hmm, what dishes are you going to make?”

“Eh?”

Natsu was confused again. She hadn’t asked her mum what they were having for dinner. But she can’t run away. After thinking for a long time, Natsu said:

“Uh uh..... That, Ni-chan liked to mixed raw egg into rice, but I have no idea what we’re having for dinner!”

Shimada smiled.

“Then, to ensure that your brother has more eggs to eat, you can pick this tray of eggs on offer. 10 in a tray, limited to one tray per customer, how’s that?”

Natsu heaved a sigh of relief, she took the tray of eggs, then bowed towards

the bespectacled big brother.

“Thank you!”

“Be careful not to drop it!”

Carrying the eggs, Natsu walked around the super mart. Although she wanted to hand the eggs over to mum quickly, but like what the big brother said earlier, she must be careful not to drop the eggs, hence Natsu moved around slowly like a ninja.

—

“Shimizu senpai, that ninja over there is the ferret.”

“Sorry, Hitoka-chan, can you repeat that?”

“That girl over there.....”

The two girls speaking in a lowered voice were the managers of Karasuno men’s volleyball club. The first year manager Yachi pointed towards Natsu, who was protecting the eggs like a baby, and beside her is Shimizu, a bespectacled third year student.

“Did you see the dress the girl is wearing? Those are ferrets print.”

“What’s a ferret?”

Hearing Shimizu ask, Yachi replied immediately.

“It’s the cousin of skunks. If I remember correctly, the prints on Hinata’s bento bag were of ferrets too. They are probably popular only in certain areas.....”

Recalling one of the previous matches, Shimizu remembered finding Hinata’s bento bag to be very cute, but she couldn’t remember if the prints were of ferrets.

“Hitoka-chan, you know a lot.”

“..... Ah, sorry! I was getting too excited by myself! Ah, I found the items on special offer!!”

Yachi found a huge basket with many boxes of sport drinks. Shimizu said, her face serious:

“Everyone is entitled to buy three boxes, huh..... Get Azumane to come in.”

“Yes!!”

Yachi took out her phone.

—

Natsu found her mum at the vegetables corner, she then carefully placed the tray of eggs into the basket. If she broke the eggs now due to carelessness, all her effort previously would have been for nothing. Hence, Natsu was extra careful.

“Ah, thank you, Nat-chan, then let’s head over for payment.”

Natsu, who had completed her mission, heaved a sigh of relief.

But because there were many people waiting to check out their groceries, the queue was moving very slowly, and Natsu grew bored. To kill time, she took a look at the items in the basket, then, as if she had come up with a great idea, Natsu sneaked away from the queue.

“Snacks! Snacks!”

That’s right, she was thinking of sneaking some snacks into the basket, and if she didn’t hurry up, it’ll be mum’s turn at the cashier. Natsu ran quickly towards the snacks.

Just then—

“Yah!”

“Oh.”

Natsu ran into a guy in front of her. She had wanted to apologise, but got shocked as she raised her head.

Because, she had ran into a tall, bearded guy.

“Beard.....”

Natsu was shocked, her body unable to move. The bearded guy inched closer towards her, as if blocking her whole body.

“A-Are you okay? I was looking at my phone.....”

The tall bearded guy was indeed Azumane, Karasuno's Ace. Although he had been called in to help with carrying the stuff, Shimizu and Yachi had asked him to wait at a corner before they check out the items. Then just now Yachi messaged him to come over.

The kind and gentle Azumane felt deeply sorry, knocking into a small girl like this.

He then recalled suddenly about how one should "maintain the same level of eye contact when interacting with children".

But this had quite the opposite effect. As Azumane, with his face full of beard, inched closer towards Natsu, it only made her even more frightened.

"B-Beard..... Beard..... Uwahhhhhhhhhhh!!"

Natsu's face was all squashed, she cried while running back to her mum.

I'm sorry I'm really sorry! I shouldn't have tried to sneak snacks into the basket without letting mum know, sorry! I won't act on my own again!

Natsu had wanted to scream, but she couldn't catch her breath at all, her voice stuck in her throat. Whatever it is, she wanted to go back to her mum as soon as possible. Hence, Natsu ran forward with all her might. The two managers, who were growing impatient from not seeing Azumane despite messaging him, decided to go look for him. Then, they saw Natsu, who was crying while running, and also the panicking Azumane.

Yachi looked at Shimizu, slightly afraid.

"F-From the looks of it, perhaps....."

"Other than him, the culprit couldn't be anyone else."

The two of them ran towards Azumane, his expression had become scarier unconsciously.

"I-It wasn't me..... Who made her cry..... She herself.....!"

Azumane was going to continue explaining, But Shimizu glared at him:

"..... Lousy."

"What do you meannnnnnnnnn!"

Azumane's huge body suddenly looked as if it had deflated.

Yachi apologise immediately.

"Sorry! It must be because of my messages.....!"

"No, Yachi's not in the wrong! It's me..... it's all because of my face....."

"If I hadn't asked Azumane senpai over, I could've just queued a few times myself!"

"I-It's all because of how I look.....!"

Seeing the two bowing to each other repeatedly, Shimizu spoke:

"Alright, enough, let's get back to shopping."

Shimizu walked forward with big steps, the two of them following behind her.

"Ah, yes!"

"Wait for me.....!"

—

Natsu prepared dinner with mum once they reached home. Because Natsu in elementary school, she was allowed to use the knives and stove.

Natsu was scolded by her mum earlier when she cried in the super mart.

"See, Natsu, I told you not to run around!"

"Ooh, s-sorry!"

Natsu cried as she apologised just now, so once she returned home, she decided to be in her best behaviour. She wanted to prove to her mum that she's already a big girl who can help with housework.

Natsu cut open the meat patties mum fried. In the patties were poached eggs. To prevent herself from getting burnt, Natsu waited until it was cooled down before cutting them up. When she cut open the brown patties, the egg yolk oozed out, it looked really good.

"Looks really delicious!"

Mum also prepared asparagus bacon rolls. The sizzling sound in the drying pan made it sound really appetising. Natsu was getting hungry.



Usually Natsu would eat dinner together with her mum first, and sometimes in the midst of their meal, her father and brother would return.

Natsu laid the bowls and chopsticks on the dining table, then told her mum “I’m going to start eating” before beginning to eat. Natsu bit into the patties immediately.

“So delicious!”

For unknown reasons, Natsu found the eggs today to be more delicious than usual. The tofu and spring onions in the miso soup tasted better too. Although she wasn’t sure whether all the ingredients were bought from super mart they went to today.

Natsu ate with big mouthfuls, suddenly, she heard the sound of the door opening from the porch.

“I’m back!”

“Ah, it’s Ni-chan!”

Natsu stood up and ran towards the porch immediately.

“Natsu, no standing up while eating!”

Although she did hear mum scolding her, she wanted to see her brother very much. She clung onto her brother, who was still removing his shoes, from the back, then said:

“Ni-chan! Today’s egg are very delicious!”

“Oh, why is that so? Natsu, wait a minute, I’m out of breath! My collars are strangling me!”

Seeing her brother struggling, Natsu jumped down from his back, then changed to pulling on his bag.

“Ni-chan, do you want to eat raw egg with rice? You want it don’t you?”

“Huh? Wait a minute, please, ah, but it really does smell delicious. I want to eat rice too! Big portion please!”

Hinata said while getting dragged on by Natsu. His mum’s voice sounded from the living room.

“Shouyou, go wash your hands first!”

“Okay!”

Natsu followed behind her brother while he washed his hands, the two of them walking along the corridor. Natsu then told her brother:

“Ni-chan! We went nearby your school today.”

“Ah? Why? For what?”

“The bearded guy is very scary.....”

“Ah? Please say it in sequence, in sequence!”

Once her brother returned home, the house became lively all of a sudden. The house was filled with the delicious smell of dinner.

On a summer night, their family time was just about to begin.

-end-

# **Haikyuu!! Novel Volume 4: Everyone's Summer Vacation**

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— 筈だった。 —

# 鳥の家

脚本・監督：緑下 力

日向 夏 日向 翔陽 東峰 旭 武田 一鉄 清水 潔子 烏養 繫心 谷地 仁花 田中 龍之介  
撮影：赤重 京治 美術監督：青根 高伸 音楽：矢巾 秀 製作：「鳥の家」製作委員会 配給：西宝

とある一軒家に越してきた父子を襲う恐怖。



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After Final Haikyuu Quest and Haikyuu Fighter the Movie, Director Ennoshita delivers another ~~random short story~~ masterpiece.

Screenwriter & Director: Ennoshita Chikara

Camera: Akaashi Keiji

Art Director: Aone Takanobu

Music: Yahaba Shigeru

Father: Azumane Asahi

Son: Hinata Shouyou

Daughter: Hinata Natsu

Exorcists: Takeda Ittetsu & Shimizu Kiyoko

Former Tenant: Ukai Keishin

Haunted Portrait: Yachi Hitoka

Villager: Tanaka Ryuunosuke

- Family of three (Asahi, Hinata and Natsu) was moving into a house in the middle of nowhere. When the family got out of the car, they saw a shadow moving in the house. Thinking it was the landlord, the children went inside to greet the person. They saw a portrait of a crying girl (Yachi) on the wall.

- On the second floor, Natsu noticed something in the darkness, and out flew... a group of baby crows. *[Yep, at this point I realized this is NOT going to be a horror story...]* The baby crows disappeared.

- The exorcists (Takeda-sensei and Shimizu) showed up and explained that the former tenant (Ukai) had contacted them when Ukai was still living in the house.

- A ghost possessed Natsu's toy lion and started asking if she wanted to play. The exorcists were getting ready to work, when Natsu jumped the stuffed animal, bit it by its neck and started beating the daylight out of it. The ghost was exorcised from the toy. Shimizu was impressed.

- While the exorcists and the family were going over the situation, someone was hiding in the bushes outside of the window. The exorcists quietly exchanged

a glance, raised their crosses, and... started violently clubbing the person with their crosses.

- The hiding person (Tanaka) ~~was elated that he was beaten by Shimizu~~ warned the family to move out and stay away. He refused to tell them anything more... until Shimizu asked, then Tanaka immediately spit out the whole back story about an Inugami curse placed on the house, blah blah blah.

- The group discussed about the possibility of the family moving out. Natsu revealed that the family had already moved more than 10 times. Finally, the exorcists and Tanaka took their leaves. While they were walking away, Shimizu asked Takeda-sensei if it was fine to just leave the family like that. Takeda-sensei said they were not evil so it would be okay.

- The former tenant (Ukai) adapted pretty well to the haunted house. He had no problem with the ghosts, baby crows and flying furniture, but he could not deal with the girl (Yachi) in the portrait's constant sobbing every night. Yachi used to be a human but she was trapped into the picture 100 years ago. The two of them could not figure out how to free her without killing her. Before Ukai moved out, he contacted the exorcists for Yachi.

- The family of three turned out to be monsters themselves. Asahi was a Frankenstein monster, Hinata was a puppy werewolf and Natsu was a vampire. The family moved to the middle of nowhere thinking it would help conceal their identities, and now wondered if they should move to a busy city instead. Natsu happily asked if they could become friends with the ghosts in the house, but Asahi was afraid of ghost. Poor Yachi was wondering where the exorcists were.

RANDOM THOUGHTS: Natsu is badass lol